

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

STREAM CHANNEL STABILIZATION

(ft)
CODE 584

DEFINITION

Stabilizing the channel of a stream with suitable structures.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to stream channels undergoing damaging aggradation or degradation that cannot be feasibly controlled by clearing or snagging, by the establishment of vegetative protection, or by the installation of upstream water control facilities.

CRITERIA

It is recognized that channels may aggrade or degrade during a given storm or over short periods. A channel is considered stable if over long periods the channel bottom remains essentially at the same elevation.

In the design of a channel for stability, the following points shall be evaluated:

- The character of the materials comprising the channel bottom.
- The quantity and character of the sediments entering the reach of channel under consideration. This shall be analyzed on the basis of both present conditions and projected changes caused by changes in land use or land treatment and upstream improvements or structural measures.
- Streamflow peaks, velocities, and volumes at various flow frequencies.
- The effects of changes in velocity of the stream produced by the structural measures.

Structures installed to stabilize stream channels shall be designed and installed to meet NRCS standards for the particular structure and type of construction.

CONSIDERATIONS

Stage-discharge and flow velocity relative to the water budget components, geologic materials comprising the stream channel, and objectives of the channel modification.

Effects on water tables, soil moisture storage, and rooting depths and transpiration of vegetation.

Temporary and long-term effects on erosion and sedimentation.

Changes in stream water temperature that may result from the clearing of vegetation or alteration of water sources to the channel.

Effects on the visual quality of the water resource.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for stream channel stabilization shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

An operation and maintenance plan shall be prepared for use by those responsible for operating and maintaining the system. The plan shall provide specific instructions for operating and maintaining the system to insure that it functions properly. It shall also provide for periodic inspections and prompt repair or replacement of damaged components or erosion.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.